OUR JUBILEE NUMBER

will be that published in mid-October and will contain only articles dealing with the progress of the Study of Entomology during the fifty years of the existence of the Journal.—The Editors.

NOTES ON BREEDING APOROPHYLA AUSTRALIS FROM THE EGG.

By Captain C. Q. Parsons.

13,820

A solitary female taken at ivy near Kingswear, S. Devon, on the 25th September 1937 was placed in a large-size collecting box, covered with muslin and containing dead grass, on the 26th. That night she laid 15 ova, mostly on the muslin, and a few on the box. On the morning of the 27th I found she was dead and had laid a very large number of ova in heaps all over the box. They hatched early in October, nearly all being fertile.

Remembering my failure to rear *lutulenta* without artificial heat, I decided to try what it would do. Having no electric light in the house, I purchased a small paraffin lamp for 1s 6d, which consumed roughly a gallon a month. It required refilling every 24 hours, but I should think the heat could be more easily regulated than when using an electric light bulb.

I placed the majority of the larvae in two of the smallest-sized glass-topped larva tins with young shoots of *Poa annua*. These I put in a large Jacob's biscuit tin together with the lamp, leaving the lid inverted about two inches open, covering the small tins with cardboard to keep the larvae in darkness. I started the temperature at 68° F., with the tin in a room without a fire, where the room temperature was more or less constant. The larvae soon started feeding. There was a fair degree of mortality in one tin in the first few days as the lid did not fit perfectly and the young grass rapidly withered before changing once a day. I transferred what remained of them to a larger tin the bottom of which I lined with newspaper, and tried them on *Avena elatior*, the False Oat Grass, which lasted much better and was less trouble to dry when gathered in wet weather: they fed on it until turning to pupae. In the second instar I tried a little *Silene inflata* mixed with the grass, which they only just nibbled, and, once again, in the last instar, when they refused it.

I soon lowered the temperature to 64°, and when they were in the penultimate instar to 60°. As the larvae grew larger I put them in two oblong cigarette tins, changing the food daily and relining the tins with fresh paper. As soon as they became fullfed they gave warning of their readiness to pupate by losing their brilliant colours and resting a few days. When this occurred they were put into another tin with about four inches of moss fibre mixed with damp earth and returned to the biscuit tin. The first caterpillar descended on 10th January, and the last about a week later. A month after the last had burrowed I turned out the tin, one larva had dried up and two had misformed pupae, the remainder had turned perfectly. Apart from the casualties on hatching and these three, I had no other mishaps. The larvae shewed no tendency to cannibalise as on several occasions they had devoured all their grass and were all present when mustered.

I placed the pupae on the surface of the moss fibre in a cigarette tin, keeping it damp, and returned them to the incubator, which was then heated up to 70°, and kept at that temperature until 19th May. This seemed to be about the temperature they would get on an average in nature from June to September, if they were lucky.

The first moth hatched on 15th May, two more appearing by the 19th, on which date I left for Belgium, when they were subject to what temperature nature provided, this being almost a frost for a night en route in the New Forest and low temperatures across the Channel.

They started to hatch again on 26th May, the last arriving on 8th June. They are all well up to size and of a much darker form than occur in Sussex and the Isle of Wight.

In conclusion, I might say that my lamp would provide a temperature of 80° in the coldest weather if required. I think it is possible the temperatures I have recorded were slightly higher than those actually inside the receptacle containing the pupae and the cigarette tins as it varied several degrees in various parts of the biscuit tin itself.

PYRALIDAE AND MICROLEPIDOPTERA COLLECTED IN CYPRUS DURING 1920 AND 1921.

By Kenneth J. Hayward, F.R.E.S., F.R.G.S., F.Z.S.

(*Concluded from p. 82.*)

[NOTES ON THIS LIST OF CYPRIOT MICROS.—

Oxyptilus distans, Zeller, "gen. aest. *laetus*, Zeller." *Oxyptilus laetus*, Zeller, is a species distinct from *distans*, differing in genitalia.

Platyptilia rhododactyla, "Fabricius." Should be ascribed to Schiffermüller.

"*Alucita magadis*, Meyrick." There is no such species of *Alucita*. There is an *Orneodes magadis*, Meyr., known only from the Khasi Hills, Assam, where I have bred it from *Colquhounia coccinea* in Shillong: it is most unlikely to occur in Cyprus. Storey (*Bull. S. E. Egypte* 1914, 75: 1916) has recorded *O. magadis* from Maadi, Aswan, Egypt, but this record is almost certainly based on misidentification. I have an undescribed *Orneodes* sp. from Mount Troödos, Cyprus, but this is nothing like *magadis*, Meyr.

Agdistis meridionalis, Zeller, occurs in Cyprus, and I have specimens from Larnaka and Zakaki.

"*Blastobasis*" *oecophila*, Stdgr., belongs to the Gelechiad genus *Oecia*, Wlsm. 1897, and has nothing to do with *Blastobasis*. This latter remark also applies to the Gelechiad genera *Dichomeris*, *Sariso-phora* and *Neocorodes*.

Pleurota idalia, Meyr., of which I have a series from Limassol, is, according to Dr Amsel, not distinct from *metricella*, Zeller 1847, or *pungitiella*, H.S., 1854, both of which names probably represent only one species.

Apiletria luella, Lederer, certainly occurs in Cyprus: I have a specimen from Limassol.— T. B. F.]